

## Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 SY-05

FBIE-00 H-02 /068 W

----- 054642

R 161405Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8601

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12671

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: REFUGEE ASSISTANCE: GOE POLICY AND  
REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM

REF: A) STATE 287693

B) CAIRO 12604

1. IN TALK WITH MINSTATE MOHAMED RIAD TODAY, I RAISED THE MATTER OF TRYING TO ESTABLISH NEW MODALITIES FOR HANDLING REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM MADE AT EMBASSY CAIRO AND CONGEN ALEXANDRIA. I RECALLED HE AND I HAD SOME EIGHT MONTHS AGO WORKED OUT MODALITIES WHICH, UNTIL THE RECENT BARTOSOVA CASE, HAD WORKED WELL. BARTOSOVA CASE HAD, UNFORTUNATELY, PROMPTED CONCERN ON PART OF FONMIN FAHMY ABOUT NUMBERS OF SUCH REFUGEES WHOM WE SEEM TO BE HANDLING. ALTHOUGH FONMIN HAD DIRECTED MFA KEEP HANDS OFF, MININT HAD ULTIMATELY AGREED TO ACCEPT IRCR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS PROVIDED BY UNHCR TO BARTOSOVA AND SHE WAS ABLE TO LEAVE. WHILE I AGAIN WANTED HIM TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR REFUGEES, WE ARE BOUND TO BE APPROACHED AGAIN. AND, AS HE KNEW, THERE IS DEEP CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN SUCH MATTERS. WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO EMBARRASS GOE,  
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BUT HOPE SOME NEW MUTUALLY AGREEABLE HANDLING

PROCEDURES CAN BE WORKED OUT.

2. I TOLD HIM USG RECOGNIZES ASYLUM IS THE RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY OF EGYPT. ALTHOUGH MOST COUNTRIES HAVE ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERING ASYLUM REQUESTS, I WAS NOT SURE GOE HAD ADDRESSED ITSELF TO THIS PROBLEM. INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE IS WELL-ESTABLISHED IN THIS REGARD. WE WOULD BE WILLING TO REFER ASYLUM SEEKERS TO THE GOE IF SOME KIND OF ASSURANCES COULD BE GIVEN US THAT INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE WOULD BE FOLLOWED IN SUCH CASES WITHOUT REGARD TO EXTERNAL PRESSURES FROM CLAIMANTS' COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY AND THAT NO FORCIBLE REPATRIATION WOULD TAKE PLACE.

3. I STRESSED THAT USG INTEREST IN HELPING FACILITATE DEPARTURE FROM EGYPT OF DEFECTING REGUESS FROM EASTERN EUROPE SHOULD NOT PLACE POLITICAL ONUS ON GOE. INSTEAD, IT SHOULD BE HELPFUL TO GOE SINCE IT RESULTS IN THE EXPEDITIOUS REMOVAL OF REFUGESS WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE BE A SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT. IT SEEMS, TOO, THAT, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT OUGHT TO BE HELPFUL AND MORE PRATICABLE TO MOVE REFUGEES TO THIRD COUNTRIES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING THEIR DEFECTION. OUR EFFORTS TO SOLICIT UNHCR HELP FOR DOCUMENTATION AND RESETTLEMENT ARE FULLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE. COMPLIANCE WITH FORMALLY ESTABLIHSED UN NORMS AND PROGRAMS ON REFUGEES COULD HARDLY LAY GOE OPEN TO CRITICISMS AND PRESSURES. CONVERSELY, FAILURE TO DO SO COULD ELICIT UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY.

4. RIAD ACKNOWLEDGED THE PROBLEM. HE REITERATED WHAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID, NAMELY THAT IN INITIALLY AGREEING TO MODALITIES, GOE HAD NOT EXPECTED THERE WOULD BE A STEADY STREAM OF SUCH REFUGEES. HE UNDERTOOK TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH FAHMY, MININT AND SALIM TO SEE WHAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. WHILE GOE WILLING IN PRINCIPLE GRANT ASYLUM TO GENUINE REFUGESS AND IS CONSTITUTIONALLY REQUIRED T DO SO, IT DOES  
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NOT WANT TO HARBOR "CRIMINALS" AND PREFERES, THEREFORE, TO HANDLE SUCH REQUESTS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. HE AGREED IT IS DESIRABLE, IF POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT MODALITIES BEFORE A NEW REFUGEE CASE ARISES AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH ONCE HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONSULT ON THE ISSUE.

5. COMMENT: IT WAS CLEAR GOE IS TEPID ON THIS MATTERS.

IN CIRCUMSTANCES, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF UNHCR GENEVA  
COULD BE PROMPTED TO MAKE PARALLEL APPROACH TO  
GOE RE HANDLING FUTURE REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM IN EGYPT  
AS SUGGESTED PARA 3 REFTEL A.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL ASYLUM, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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